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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 003645

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/EDA JOHNSON, EB/TPP WINTON

USAID FOR TOM MARCHIONE, WILL WHELEN, PAUL DES ROSIERS,  
ALTRENA MUKURIA

USDA FOR FAS/REICH AND HUGHES

FROM FODAG

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [EAGR](#) [EAGR](#) [EAGR](#) [FAO](#) [EAID](#) [AORC](#) [FAO](#) [EAID](#) [AORC](#) [FAO](#) [EAIDASEC](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTING THE HUNGRY: FAO MEETING ON MEASURING  
UNCLASSIFIED

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FOOD DEPRIVATION AND UNDER-NUTRITION.

¶1. SUMMARY: THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) CONVENED AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF FOOD DEPRIVATION JUNE 26-28, 2002 IN ROME. PARTICIPANTS COMPARED AND CONTRASTED FIVE WIDELY RECOGNIZED METHODS OF MEASURING FOOD DEPRIVATION AND UNDER-NUTRITION. THESE METHODS INCLUDED THE FAO METHOD, HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS, INDIVIDUAL FOOD INTAKE SURVEYS, ANTHROPOMETRIC SURVEYS, AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES. THE MEETING GAVE A QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF THE FAO "FOOD BALANCE SHEET METHOD" FOR ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDERNOURISHED, AND FOR MONITORING TRENDS TOWARD THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT GOAL. HOWEVER, HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS WILL CERTAINLY BECOME MORE WIDELY USED FOR ESTIMATING SUB-NATIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF HUNGER. A FIRMER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE DIFFERENT METHODS (AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER) SHOULD ALLOW THE FOOD INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY MAPPING SYSTEM (FIVIMS) TO BETTER GUIDE MEASUREMENT PROJECTS. THIS WILL ALLOW MONITORING OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT TARGET AND STRENGTHEN POLICY RESPONSES. END SUMMARY.

¶2. AS EMPHASIZED BY THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT (WFS) AND ITS PLAN OF ACTION IN 1996, COUNTRIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AT LARGE REQUIRE RELIABLE, ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT AND MAGNITUDE OF FOOD INSECURITY AND VULNERABILITY, AT SUB-NATIONAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS.  
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¶3. FAO, AS PART OF ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-AGENCY INITIATIVE, SPONSORED AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM IN JUNE 2002. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYMPOSIUM WAS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HOW METHODOLOGIES FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF UNDER-NUTRITION AND FOOD DEPRIVATION AND USES OF THESE MEASURES CAN BE IMPROVED. THE SYMPOSIUM SYSTEMATICALLY COMPARED AND CONTRASTED FIVE MAIN METHODS, CURRENTLY USED IN THE ESTIMATION OF FOOD DEPRIVATION AND POOR NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS. THESE METHODS ARE THE FAO METHOD, HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS, INDIVIDUAL FOOD INTAKE SURVEYS, ANTHROPOMETRIC SURVEYS, AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES.

¶4. THESE METHODS ARE USED BY THE CONCERNED INSTITUTIONS AT PROGRAM, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS FOR ASSESSING THE EXTENT AND SEVERITY OF UNDER-NUTRITION AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES. EACH METHOD OBSERVES DIFFERENT BUT RELATED ASPECTS OF FOOD INSECURITY; THEY VARY IN THEIR COVERAGE AND TIMELINESS, MAKE USE OF DISTINCT BASIC DATA, ARE SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT LIMITATIONS AND COULD ALL BE SUBJECT TO IMPROVEMENTS. THE DEBATE ON THE SUITABILITY OF VARIOUS METHODS TO CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION MAKING THAT CONCERN THE WFS TARGET, HALVING THE NUMBER OF FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE BEFORE 2015, HAS TO TAKE ALL THESE ASPECTS INTO CONSIDERATION.

FAO METHOD AND CRITIQUE

¶5. THE FAO METHOD OF MEASURING AND ASSESSING MALNUTRITION AND UNDER-NOURISHMENT USES A LOG-NORMAL  
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FUNCTION WITH THREE PARAMETERS; THE CAPUT DIETARY ENERGY SUPPLY (DES), A DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION, AND A MINIMUM ENERGY CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENT. THE DES IS DERIVED FROM TAKING THE TOTAL FOOD SUPPLY IN A COUNTRY, OBTAINED FROM THE FOOD BALANCE SHEETS, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, DIVIDED BY THE

TOTAL POPULATION. THIS VARIABLE CAPTURES THE MEAN FOOD AVAILABILITY PER PERSON IN THE COUNTRY OF STUDY. THE DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS CALCULATED BY USING HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEYS TO GET A DISTRIBUTIONAL SAMPLE OF THE HOUSEHOLD PER CAPUT USUAL DIETARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION BASED ON INCOME. IMPOSED ON THIS FUNCTION IS A MINIMUM ENERGY CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENT DEFINED AS THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE INTAKE TO MAINTAIN WEIGHT AND PERFORM LIGHT ACTIVITY FOR THE AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL. THE PART OF THE FUNCTION THAT FALLS BELOW THIS MINIMUM CUTOFF IS THE PROPORTION OF THAT COUNTRY'S POPULATION THAT IS UNDERNOURISHED.

16. THE FAO METHODS STRENGTHS LIE IN THE USE OF THE CAPUT DES MEASURE THAT IS UNIFORMLY AVAILABLE FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND UPDATED ON A REGULAR BASIS. ALSO, THIS METHOD CAPTURES THE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN FOOD SUPPLY ON

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	SAS-00
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R 240834Z JUL 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5051  
INFO USDA FAS WASHDC 2234  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

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FOOD DEPRIVATION AND UNDER-NUTRITION.

THE PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT.

17. THE WEAKNESSES OF THE FAO METHOD CONCERN THE BASIC DES NUMBERS, WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE QUALITY OF FOOD SUPPLIED OR MICRO-NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES. ALSO, THE PER CAPUT DISTRIBUTION IS INDIRECTLY ESTIMATED AND THE CUT-OFF MINIMUM REQUIREMENT CAN VARY DEPENDING ON WHICH BASAL METABOLIC RATE (BMR) EQUATION IS USED OR WHETHER OR NOT NORMS FOR CHILDREN ARE INCLUDED.

18. IN SUMMATION, THE GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS GAVE A QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT OF THE FAO METHOD WITH SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ACCURACY AND SPECIFICATION OF ITS PARAMETERS ESPECIALLY SURROUNDING THE USE OF THE FOOD BALANCE SHEET DATA. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT THIS METHOD, WHILE BEING A VERY GOOD INDICATOR OF THE PREVALENCE OF UNDER-NOURISHMENT GLOBALLY, MAY OVERESTIMATE THE OCCURRENCE IN SOME AREAS AND UNDERESTIMATE IT OTHERS. THAT ERROR AFFECTS POLICY DECISIONS AND RESOURCE DISPERSION. OVERALL, THE FAO METHOD IS A GOOD TOOL FOR BENCHMARKING THE CHANGES IN PREVALENCE OVER TIME, IS CONSISTENT, AND WHILE A FINE INDICATOR OF FOOD AVAILABILITY, IS NOT A TRUE MEASUREMENT.

OTHER FOUR METHODS FOR MEASURING/ASSESSING  
MALNUTRITION/UNDERNOURISHMENT

19. A. HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS (HES) EVALUATE THE  
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WELFARE OF A COUNTRY'S POPULATION BY ANALYZING INTERVIEW AND DIARY LOG ACCOUNTS OF ALL ACQUISITIONS OF FOOD BY A HOUSEHOLD. THE HES METHOD IS USED TO DIRECTLY MEASURE THE AMOUNT OF HOUSEHOLD ENERGY AVAILABLE. IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ENERGY AVAILABLE VERSUS THE

NET CONSUMED NOR DOES IT CAPTURE THE QUALITY OR VULNERABILITY OF HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SUPPLY. THE HES METHOD IS USED TO CAPTURE AN ESTIMATE OF IN-COUNTRY, REGIONAL, AND WORLD-WIDE PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY, PROVIDE A PICTURE OF WHO IS FOOD INSECURE, LOOK AT THE CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY, AND EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF POLICIES ON FOOD INSECURITY.

1B. THE INDIVIDUAL FOOD INTAKE SURVEY METHOD (IFIS) IS AN INVASIVE BUT SPECIFIC MEASURE OF DIETARY VARIABILITY THAT CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO DETAILED STRATA FOR ANALYSIS. THESE INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE AMOUNT OF FOODS OR FOOD CATEGORIES CONSUMED BY THE SELECTED INDIVIDUAL OVER A PERIOD. THIS INFORMATION IS THEN CONVERTED INTO ENERGY AND NUTRIENT CONTENT LEVELS AND ANALYZED TO ESTABLISH THE EXISTENCE, STRENGTH, AND LEVEL OF ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DIETARY EXPOSURE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF INDIVIDUALS. THE IFIS METHOD IS VERY TIME-CONSUMING AND LABOR INTENSIVE BUT PROVIDES A FINE LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION THAT IS USEFUL FOR POLICY DECISIONS.

1C. ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES USE HUMAN BODY MEASUREMENTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT NUTRITIONAL STATUS. THE HUMAN BODY MEASUREMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN INCLUDE HEIGHT FOR AGE, WEIGHT FOR AGE, AND WEIGHT-TO-HEIGHT. FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS, THE BODY MASS INDEX (BMI) IS COMMONLY USED. THESE MEASUREMENTS ARE AGGREGATED INTO INDICES WITH

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PAGE 04 ROME 03645 02 OF 04 240838Z REFERENCES AND CUT-OFFS THAT PROVIDE INDICATIONS OF THE PREVALENCE OF UNDER-NUTRITION. THE ADVANTAGES OF ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES ARE THAT IT IS PRECISE, ACCURATE, LOW SKILL AND LOW COST, SHOWS DEGREES OF SEVERITY AND REFLECTS NUTRITIONAL HISTORY, CAN BE USED FOR LARGE SAMPLES, AND ALSO EVALUATES THE CHANGES AND TRENDS OVER TIME. THE DISADVANTAGES INCLUDE THE INABILITY TO DETECT EFFECTS OF SPECIFIC NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES, IT IS A COMBINED MEASURE OF HEALTH AND FOOD INSECURITY, AND TAKEN ALONE IT DOES NOT SUGGEST WHAT MAY BE CAUSING THE MALNUTRITION.

1D. QUALITATIVE MEASURES OF FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER CAME FROM A PLEA BY POLICY MAKERS TO DEVELOP A LESS TECHNICAL POLICY TOOL FOR DECISION MAKING. THE QUALITATIVE MEASURES TOOL IS A SURVEY OF QUESTIONS THAT EVALUATE AN INDIVIDUAL'S PERCEPTION OF FOOD INSECURITY. THE ADVANTAGES TO THIS TOOL ARE THAT IT IS QUICK TO ADMINISTER AND ANALYZE, IT CAN BE EASILY INCORPORATED INTO ON-GOING SURVEYS, AND THE RESPONDENT'S BURDEN IS VERY LOW. THE METHOD'S DISADVANTAGES INCLUDE A TIME CONSUMING DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, THE NEED TO LINK THE SURVEY WITH OTHER PROJECTS, AND SCALING DIFFICULTIES.

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	SAS-00
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R 240834Z JUL 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052  
INFO USDA FAS WASHDC 2235  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA

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FOOD DEPRIVATION AND UNDER-NUTRITION.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL USER PERSPECTIVES

¶10. ONE OF THE SESSIONS FOCUSED ON HOW THESE FIVE METHODS ARE USED BY BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. KENYA, REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION COORDINATOR, STATED THAT THEY USE A NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY, WHICH COMBINES THE ANTHROPOMETRY, HES/QUALITATIVE, AND FAO METHODS. THE FAO METHOD IS USED TO OBTAIN NATIONAL LEVEL DATA FOR COMPARISON TO OTHER COUNTRIES, ANTHROPOMETRY IS UTILIZED FOR POLICIES THAT REACH THE REGIONAL AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL, AND THE HES/QUALITATIVE COMBINATION DISPLAYS AT A SUB-NATIONAL AND HOUSEHOLD LEVEL THE DEGREE OF, CAUSES FOR, AND COPING STRATEGIES RELATED TO FOOD INSECURITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH INDIA AND COLOMBIA ECHOED THE KENYAN PRESENTER, SAYING THAT THEIR COUNTRIES ALSO USE A COMBINATION OF THE METHODS DISCUSSED AT THE SYMPOSIUM TO OBTAIN A WELL-ROUNDED SET OF DATA AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS.

¶11. THE WORLD BANK, DFID (U.K. DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT), AND USAID PRESENTED THE INTERNATIONAL USER'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE METHODS. THE WORLD BANK PRIMARILY USES THE FAO METHOD OF MEASUREMENT TO TRACK CHANGES OVER TIME IN THE FOOD SUPPLY AND USES ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES FOR MORE COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILED ANALYSIS. DFID ALSO UTILIZES A COLLECTIVE SET OF MEASUREMENT METHODS TO OBTAIN DATA RELEVANT TO THE AGENCIES INFORMATION NEEDS. USAID BREAKS DOWN WHAT

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MEASUREMENT METHOD IT USES BY THE LEVEL OF POLICY DETAIL REQUIRED. AT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY LEVEL USAID HAS ACCEPTED THE FAO METHOD. AT THE AGENCY LEVEL, THEY COMBINE THE FAO MEASURES WITH HES AND ANTHROPOMETRY, AND FOR DETERMINING FOOD AID PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND SUB-NATIONAL TARGETING THEY REFER TO THE FAO LIST OF LOW INCOME FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES (LIFDC), ANTHROPOMETRIC AND POVERTY MEASURES. USAID IS CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON QUALITATIVE AND OTHER MEASURES OF FOOD INSECURITY FOR USE AT PROGRAM LEVELS. IFAD USES THE FAO METHOD AS A CONTINUOUS INDICATOR OF GLOBAL PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT BUT FOR PROJECT LEVEL ANALYSIS IT TURNS TO ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES THAT CAN BE AGGREGATED TO A WIDE VARIETY OF DETAIL.

#### ACADEMIC VIEW

¶12. CONVERSATIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS BROUGHT OUT QUITE SIMILAR VIEWS OF THE FAO METHOD AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE SYMPOSIUM. IN AGREEMENT, THE FAO METHOD OF MEASUREMENT COULD USE SOME FINE-TUNING OF THE VARIABLES, MODEL, AND DATA ACQUISITION BUT THAT ULTIMATELY, IT IS A CONSISTENT MEASURE OVER TIME AND HOLDS A WELL-DEFINED PLACE AS A BENCHMARKING INDICATOR OF GLOBAL FOOD AVAILABILITY. DEFINITELY, THERE IS NO ONE METHOD PERFECT FOR ALL PURPOSES. THE FIVE METHODS DISCUSSED THROUGHOUT THE SYMPOSIUM EACH HAVE A PLACE IN MEASURING VARIOUS DETAILS ABOUT UNDER-NUTRITION WHETHER USED ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH EACH OTHER. THE FAO METHOD INDICATES GLOBAL FOOD AVAILABILITY, THE HES METHOD REVEALS ACCESSIBILITY OF FOOD AND POVERTY LEVELS, AND THE

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ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASURES SHED LIGHT ON NUTRITIONAL CONTENT ISSUES.

#### COMMENT

¶13. THE SYMPOSIUM PROVIDED MORE TECHNIQUE BE IMPLEMENTED THAN THE FAO METHOD FOR MEASURING GLOBAL UNDER-NUTRITION. THE ONE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR OF USING A METHOD BESIDES THE FAO FOR WFS5YL HUNGER REDUCTION POLICIES MAY LIE IN MORE PRECISE ESTIMATION OF NUMBERS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL USED FOR AID

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EXME-00	EUR-00
	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	SAS-00
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R 240834Z JUL 02  
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SUBJECT: COUNTIN0P\$8QXZQ58: N/A  
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SUBJECT: HOLINKA, ANN MARIE - BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

CASE NUMBER: 121792

CASE TYPE: NACLC

BACKGROUND DATES INVESTIGATED: 03/12/02 07/23/02

DATE REPORTED: 07/23/02

OTHER CASE NUMBER: NONE

COPIES REFERRED: 1-HQ; 1-POST FILE

STATUS: CLOSED

INVESTIGATOR: ANGELO R. MANGINELLI

APPROVED BY: JABBOTT

(SBU) ISSUES: N/A

EMBASSY/LOCAL AGENCY CHECKS

03/13/02 CONSULATE NO RECORD

03/12/02 LEGAL ATTACHE NO RECORD

03/12/02 RSO OFFICE NO RECORD

03/17/02 ITALIAN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR NO RECORD

SUBJECT INTERVIEW

SEVERAL ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO CONTACT THE SUBJECT  
USING THE INFORMATION ON THE SF-86 WITH NEGATIVE  
RESULTS. ON 7/23/02, SHEILA MURPHY (RECEPTIONIST AT  
THE UNIVERSITY IN BOLOGNA) WAS CONTACTED TO VERIFY IF  
O VERIFY IF

THE SUBJECT WAS STILL IN ITALY. MURPHY STATED THAT THE  
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SUBJECT RETURNED TO THE U.S. AND GAVE A CONTACT NUMBER  
OF (201)858-9182. RSO ROME WAS UNABLE TO CONDUCT THE  
INTERVIEW.

SEMBLER

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